

Keeping You Informed

Dec 2021

Our role is to protect and improve the environment so that everyone can enjoy the benefits of a clean, safe and healthy place to live.

We are responsible for protecting the environment by regulating waste storage, treatment and disposal.

This briefing will give you information and an update on the current situation regarding the regulation of Biowise Limited EPR/PP3096ZA.

Odour Issues in Willerby/Kirk Ella

Reports of odour made to our incident hotline are all logged and assessed, where it is determined that Biowise is the source of the odour and it is resulting in a significant impact, further investigation will be carried out. Environment Agency (EA) officers frequently attend the area to conduct odour monitoring. During our visits we detect odours from a variety of sources, not all of which are regulated by us. We must ensure our resources are spent regulating the waste facilities within our regulatory remit. We remain committed to working with Biowise Limited to ensure that all potential sources of odour are minimised. We have also been working closely with East Riding of Yorkshire Council to ensure odour issues relating to other, non-permitted sites are passed on to them.

Regulation Improvements

Our compliance inspections for 2021 have not identified permit breaches. We have however identified potential improvements that could be made at the site; the required improvements will be applied to the current permit via our review of best available techniques (BAT) - this is discussed further below.

BAT Review

The process of reviewing and updating an Environmental Permit is necessarily thorough and the detailed investigations required, take time to complete. One of our recommendations is for Biowise to explore changes the current method of aerating the compost material and examine the possibility of moving from a positive system, where air is forced out through the material, to a negative system

where the air is drawn down through the material, a potential advantage of this change is that odorous gases can be more easily captured and treated. Biowise will now carry out detailed testing and sampling work to understand if odorous gasses are being created and then if this system could be applied to the full aeration process at the site. All results will be assessed by our permitting specialists before the final updated permit is issued.

Biowise will be carrying out a number of trial operations over the coming months in order to demonstrate the best practical way to implement improvements, this will include testing different machines and equipment to help reduce potential odour generation from the shredding of compost material. Biowise will also be carrying out trials on new aeration methods, the trials are required to ensure that there is confidence the improvements will deliver the desired outcomes before they are implemented more widely across the site. The requested improvements have the potential to give greater control of emissions through increased containment and a more thorough air treatment process, resulting in the removal of more of the odorous compounds from the gases emitted.

Permit Variation

The application to increase the annual waste tonnage is still being assessed, we are waiting for further information from Biowise to address the points we have raised during our technical assessments these questions and answers can be viewed by members of the public via citizen space using the link below. The consultation period is now over but the associated documents can still be accessed.

<https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/hu10-6ts-biowise-limited/>

We will not allow this increase if Biowise are unable to provide sufficient justification and control measures. If an increase is to be accepted any agreed improvements and infrastructure changes must be in place and fully operational before any increase takes effect.

Next Steps

We will continue to regulate Biowise in line with their current environmental permit conditions during the remainder of the decision making process. We will continue to keep you informed regarding the application and permit review process.

Other Sources of Odour

For issues relating to land spreading and/or other statutory nuisances please contact the Local Authority, East Riding County Council:

Tel: (01482) 393939

Website: www.eastriding.gov.uk/environment/pollution/air-pollution/smells-odours-and-dust/



Contact Us

**General Enquiries
National Customer Contact Centre PO Box 544
Rotherham
S60 1BY
United Kingdom**

Email - enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Telephone 03708 506 506 Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm.

**Environment incident hotline Telephone (24 hour service) 0800 80 70 60
Floodline Telephone (24 hour service) 0345 988 1188
Type talk (for the hard of hearing) 0345 602 6340**